EXCISE

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

SECRET

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Action

SS
Info

RR RUEHCR RUEKDA
DE RUQMKG 97A 11/1330Z
R 111300Z ZEA
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO RUEHCR"SECSTATE WASHDC
RUEKDA/DOD WASHDC
STATE GRNC
BT
S E C R E T ACTION DEPT 460 DOD UNN FEB 11 PM
DOD FOR OSD/ISA
FROM SOLBERT
EXDIS
AIRCRAFT FOR JORDAN
DURING DISCUSSIONS OF LAST FEW DAYS [redacted] ON
THE AIRCRAFT PROBLEM, NO NEW POSITIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY
JORDANIANS. FOLLOWING POINTS HAVE BEEN COVERED AND
ARE REPORTED HERE FOR RECORD.
1. MIRAGE PRICE
IN DISCUSSING THE MIRAGE [redacted] STATED
IT WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO JORDAN AND TO UAC ON
CFN 460 1 UAC

PAGE TWO RUQMKG 97A S E C R E T
BASIS OF PRICE AND PERFORMANCE. ON BEING PRESSED RE
PRICE HE REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO ESTIMATE AS
TO WHAT FRENCH MIGHT CHARGE AS SALE OF MIRAGE
HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH FRENCH. [redacted]
STATED THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH FRENCH, INCLUDING
[redacted] COVERED SUCH ITEMS AS HELICOPTERS AND
SS-11'S AND FRENCH EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS TO
REVIEW PURCHASE OF ANY SPECIFIC ITEMS AT ANY TIME
THAT JORDAN DESIRED. KHAMMASH REITERATED THAT NO
DISCUSSION OF SALE OR MIRAGE WAS CONDUCTED WITH
FRENCH SO HE HAD NO ESTIMATE OF POSSIBLE COSTS.
WE INDICATED OUR GENERAL ESTIMATES OF PRICE ON
MIRAGES BUT KHAMMASH HAD NO COMMENT. KING
LATER CONFIRMED WILLINGNESS OF FRENCH TO
MAKE SALES TO GOJ.
2. MIRAGE PERFORMANCE
[redacted] STATED THAT KING NOT IMPRESSED
WITH MIRAGE PERFORMANCE NOR WERE JORDANIAN PILOTS
WHO HAD FLOWN MIRAGE. KING FLEW MIRAGE
LAST NOVEMBER IN PARIS BUT [redacted] DID NOT KNOW

SECRET

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NODIS REVIEW EXDIS
Cat. A - Caption removed; transferred to O/FADRC
Cat. B - Transferred to O/FADRC with additional access limited to S/S
Cat. C - Caption and custody retained by S/S
Reviewed by: John Brogan
Date: 1983

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-2-460, February 11, 3 p.m. from: Amman

WHICH VERISON. [redacted] ALSO SAID THAT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH UAC HIGH COMMAND MIRAGE WAS DISCARDED ON GROUNDS OF ITS POOR PERFORMANCE AS COMPARED WITH CFN 2

PAGE THREE RUQMKG 97A S E C R E T
MIG 21. ON BEING PRESSED FOR SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF MIRAGE CAPABILITIES WHICH MADE IT INADEQUATE, [redacted] RESPONDED IN MORE GENERAL TERMS CITING SPEED AND OBSOLESCENCE ONLY, EITHER BECASUE OF IGNORANCE OF DETAILS OR UNWILLINGNESS TO ARUGE SPECIFICS. ON OUR RAISING SUCH ITEMS AS RATE OF CLIMB, GROUND SUPPORT C. ABILITY, ETC. OR MIRAGE, [redacted] RESPONDED SIMPLY THAT PLANE HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN BY UAC AND HE WAS EITHER UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO DEBATE CAPABILITIES.

3. EXTENT MIRAGE HAS BENN CONSIDERED
I DO NOT BELIEVE MIRAGE HAS EVER BEEN SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY JORDANIANS AND I THINK THEY HAVE SO FAR HELD THEIR POSITION WITH UAC ON PURCHASE OF WESTERN AIRCRAFT BY RELYING SOLELY ON F-104. IT ALSO SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT MIRAGE HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY REVIEWED IN UAC-JORDANIAN DISCUSSION THOUGH [redacted] STATES THAT IT HAS. [redacted] NONCOMMITAL TO SOLBERT'S SUGGESTION THAT MIRAGE SHOULD BE LOOKED INTO MUCH MORE SERIOUSLY BY JORDANIANS, INDICATIONG THAT IT WOUULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO SELL THIS TO UAC. AS REPORTED SEPARATELY KING WAS SOMEWHAT MORE CFN MIG21 F-104

PAGE FOUR RUQMKG 97A S E C R E T
RECEPTIVE TO IDEA BUT THOUGHT IT WOULD INVOLVE SERIOUS FIGHT IN UAC WITH LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS.
4. PAYMENT FOR AIRCRAFT GENERALLY [redacted] HAS NO SOLUTION FOR FINANCING PURCHASE OF ANY AIRCRAFT WHICH COST MORE THAN PRICE OF $18.2 MILLION PER SQUADRON OFFERED FOR MIG'S ; THOUGH HE HAS STATED TO ARMA THAT AN INCREASE ON ORDER OF 10-20 PERCENT IN UAC FUNDS FOR AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING IF F-104G WERE INVOLVED BECAUSE OF ITS RECOGNIZED CAPABILITIES.

[redacted]

-3-460, February 11, 3 p.m. from: Amman

WE POINTED OUT THAT PROJECTION OF FUTURE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF THE UAC FUNDS FOR JORDAN WOULD RESULT IN NEED FOR CREDIT IN APPROXIMATE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF $35-40 MILLION IF AN AIRCRAFT PACKAGE COSTING ABOUT $30 MILLION WERE INVOLVED. WHILE THERE FIGURES ARE ROUGH THEY GIVE SOME IDEA OF FINANCED ASSISTANCE JORDAN WOULD NEED TO FINANCE DEAL ON MIRAGES, F-5'S OR F-104H'S. [redacted] HAD NO SOLUTION TO THIS FINANCING PROBLEM OTHER THAN TO POINT TO NEED FOR LONG TERM CREDIT FROM UNITES STATES TO CARRY OUT TRANSACTION.
CFN 10-20 F-104G'S $35-40 $30 F-5'S F-104'S

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5. NUMBER OF SQUADRONS
[redacted] OFFICIALLY STICKS TO POSITION THAT UAC REQUIRES JORDAN TO ACQUIRE THREE SQUADRONS OF TWENTY AIRCRAFT EACH. HOWEVER, SOME WEEKS AGO [redacted] THAT ONE SQUADRON OF F-104'S WOULD DO JOB FOR NOW AND WE WOULD HAVE SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT OTHER TWO SQUADRONS WHICH CONCEIVABLY COULD BE HAWKER HUNTERS. FROM OUR DISCUSSIONS, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HE WOULD EXPECT U.S. COMMITMENT BEYOND ONE SQUADRON BUT IT APPEARS LIKELY THIS COULD BE MET BY SIMPLY STATING THAT U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT AT SOME LATER DATE.
COMMENT: JORDANIAN APPROACH IS SIMPLY TO DUMP ITS AIRCRAFT PROBLEM IN OUR LAPS, STATING THAT ONLY WE CAN SUPPLY PROPER AIRCRAFT AND BRIDGE FINANCING GAP. IT APPEARS THAT LITTLE OR NO EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO INVESTIGATE EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY OR FINANCING ON GROUNDS THAT IT IS USELESS TO DO SO AS UAC WOUULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH AIRCRAFT.
GP-3
BARNES
CFN U.S. GP-3